

behaviour of the police. A number of the murders that have occurred seem to be politically motivated. Ethnic discrimination is aggravated by the fact that the country is divided in large part along tribal lines, with a majority of the Mbundu supporting the government, and the Ovimbundu, UNITA. However, slight progress is being made in the aspect of tolerance between the two main political formations.

Most of the economic, social and cultural rights cannot be exercised because of the poor economic situation. Freedom of the press has deteriorated with the persistent harassment of journalists; some have even been murdered. They have been attacked not only for criticizing politicians, but also for looking into criminal activities.

CANADIAN POSITION

While the situation has improved considerably over the past few years, it is far from acceptable. Canada is encouraging the two parties to apply the Lusaka agreements, since peace is needed in order to strengthen respect for fundamental rights in Angola. In its item 12 statement before the 51st CHR, Canada urged Angola to give priority to meeting the urgent needs of the victims of its long conflict, to restoring respect for human rights and to establishing a democratic government. Prime Minister Chrétien sent a letter to President José Eduardo dos Santos in June 1995 also expressing Canada's concerns.

Canada has also challenged the Angolan government and UNITA to more fully respect international standards concerning the implementation of humanitarian aid programs, and to end unacceptable and counter-productive activities such as restrictions on freedom of movement, attacks against UN teams, and the pillaging of warehouses.

With an eye to encouraging reconciliation and greater respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, Canada provided \$1.4 million in humanitarian aid to Angola in 1995-96, \$1 million of which consisted of health services and survival kits for underprivileged groups by way of UNICEF; \$200,000 was for the coordination of demobilizing programs; and \$200,000 by way of the Canadian Council of Churches was to promote civil education among former UNITA soldiers. Since 1993-94, Canada has also contributed \$780,000 to demining operations. We do not expect to take any new initiatives until the parties have succeeded in establishing a lasting peace on solid foundations.